

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 12826 311910Z

70

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

SCA-01 SCS-03 PPT-01 /064 W
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R 311301Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8073

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FOLLOWING TEL CALCUTTA 2132 DTD 31 AUG 76 RCVD NEW DELHI
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CALCUTTA 2132

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, PINT, CASC, IN

SUBJ: REPORTED EXPULSION OF U.S. CITIZEN, LEADER OF
KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS, CHARLES BACIS

REF: CALCUTTA 2110, CALCUTTA 2104, CALCUTTA 2009,
CALCUTTA 2079, CALCUTTA 2092

1. ON AUGUST 27 POLICE AUTHORIPES FORMALLY NOTIFIED
USC SWAMI BHABANANDA, AKA CHARLES BACIS, THAT CASE
AGAINST HIM FOR ALLEGEDLY STEALING A TAPE RECORDER
WAS BEING DROPPED AND THAT HE SHOULD LEAVE INDIA IN
COMPLIANCE WITH THE QUIT INDIA NOTICE THAT HAD BEEN
SERVED ON HIM. BACIS HAS DEPARTED CALCUTTA FOR NEW
DELHI WHERE HE WILL BE LEAVING FOR LONDON ON AUG 30.

2. JOHN SIMMS, ONE OF THE LOCAL LEADERS OF ISKON,
TELLS US HE HAS RECEIVED A QUIT INDIA NOTICE ON
AUGUST 27 WITH THE REQUIREMENT THAT HE DEPART INDIA
WITHIN THIRTY DAYS. SIMMS ENTERED INDIA ON AN "ENTRY
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 12826 311910Z

VISA". THE NORMAL PROCEDURE IS THAT SIMMS WOULD

HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO EXTEND HIS VISA ON SIX MONTHS INCREMENTS UP TO TWO YEARS. THIS WAS AGREED BY THE HOM MINISTER (REDDY) IN A LETTER OF JULY 15, 1976. SIMMS WILL APPEAL HIS QUIT INDIA NOTICE USING REDDY'S LETTER AS THE BASIS FOR HIS APPEAL.

3. ANOTHER USC LEADER GEORGE SCHRAFF WHO ENTERED INDIA ON A TOURIST VISA HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN A QUIT INDIA NOTICE. HIS CASE IS DIFFERENT IN THAT HE ALREADY HAS ONE EXTENSION, THOUGH IT HAS BEEN COMMON PRACTICE IN THE PAST TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF ISKON TO EXTEND TOURIST VISAS FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME, IN SOME CASES YEARS.

4. SCHRAFF, IN A CONVERSATION WITH CONOFF, SAID THAT HE FELT THAT ORDERS WERE COMING FROM NEW DELHI TO CURB THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN ISKON. SCHRAFF SAID THAT THERE WERE ONLY 50 USC IN INDIA WITH ISKON (HE SAID THAT THERE WERE HUNDREDS OF INDIANS AND SOME OTHER FOREIGNERS) BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT USC HOLD ALL OF THE MOST IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN THE ORGANIZATION. HE ATTRIBUTES THIS NEW PRESSURE ON USC ISKON MEMBERS TO QUIT INDIA TO THE PUBLICITY THAT ISKON'S NEW BUILDING PROGRAM HAS GENERATED. SCHRAFF SAID THAT ISKON WAS BUILDING NOT ONLY IN WEST BENGAL BUT ALSO MADRAS, BOMBAY AND HYDERABAD. SCHRAFF FELT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS BECOMING PARANOID REGARDING AMERICANS AND AMERICAN PRESENCE AND TOLD THE FOLLOWING STORY ABOUT ISKON'S REQUEST TO SECURE 500 ACRES OF LAND IN NADIA, MAYAPUR DISTRICT, WEST BENGAL. HE SAID THAT WHEN THE CHIEF MINISTER OF WEST BENGAL SAW THE REQUEST HE NOTED ON THE BOTTOM OF THE APPLICATION THAT THE WEST INDIA COMPANY HAD BEEN GRANTED ONLY 20 ACRES OF LAND AND RULED INDIA FOR 200 YEARS AND HE ORDERED THAT THE REQUEST FOR LAND BE INVESTIGATED CAREFULLY.

5. WE CANNOT AT THIS TIME DETERMINE WHETHER ISKON MEMBERS ARE BEING DISCRIMINATED IN THE MATTER OF RE-NEWING OR EXTENDING THEIR VISAS. THERE IS NO DOUBT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 12826 311910Z

THAT THEY WERE GIVEN SPECIAL CONSIDERATION BY LOCAL IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS IN THE PAST AND THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THIS IS JUST A REGULAR TIGHTENING UP OF NORMAL IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES. WE HAVE HAD NO RPT NO COMPLAINTS FROM OTHER MISSIONARIES THAT THEIR VISAS ARE NOT BEING EXTENDED IN THE USUAL MANNER.
KORN

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SAXBE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, MISSIONARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE12826
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760331-0117
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976083/aaaaacce.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CALCUTTA 2110, 76 CALCUTTA 2104, 76 CALCUTTA 2009
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED EXPULSION OF U.S. CITIZEN, LEADER OF KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS, CHARLES BACIS
TAGS: SCUL, PINT, CASC, IN, KRISHNA CONSCIOUSNESS SOCIETY, (BACIS, CHARLES), (BHABANANDA, SWAMI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006